



MEMO

To: Offerors

From: Laura K. Hughes, Subcontract Administrator

Date: April 25, 2008

Subject: Amendment 1 to RFP No. RCX-8-88280 entitled "Energy Related Analysis & Technical Assistance"

**RESPONDERS ARE REQUIRED TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF AMENDMENT
No. 1
IN ANY PROPOSAL SENT IN RESPONSE TO THIS SOLICITATION**

The due date for submission of proposals under this solicitation is unchanged.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

1) QUESTION: Is this a new contract or a recomplete of existing work? If the latter, please identify the contract number(s) and the incumbent(s).

ANSWER: While this effort may appear to be similar to previous NREL procurements, this is a new contracting activity with no incumbents.

2) QUESTION: Do you plan to compete task orders among contract holders?

ANSWER: NREL may compete task orders among the selected subcontractors.

3) QUESTION: How many contracts do you plan to award? If you cannot provide a specific number, do you expect the number of awardees to be 1-4, 5-8, or greater than 8?

ANSWER: NREL anticipates making 5-8 awards. As stated in the RFP, NREL reserves the right to make multiple awards, or not to make any awards under this solicitation.

4) QUESTION: What energy flows/uses are covered by the statement of work; electricity production/distribution/use; transportation; industrial direct energy use; residential direct energy use; etc?

ANSWER: Offerors are expected to use their best judgment regarding the energy flows/uses covered by the Statement of Work.



5) QUESTION: Do the Qualitative Merit Criteria provide higher ranking for applicants who address more of the Work Areas than for applicants who cover fewer of the work Areas?

ANSWER: As indicated in the RFP, the Offeror's past experience and performance of doing similar work is one of the qualitative merit criteria, and the qualitative merit criteria are approximately equal in weight.

6) QUESTION: Under the Work Areas section of the SOW, please clarify or amplify your intent regarding the following items:

- a. Life cycle assessments: should this address life cycle economic assessments, life cycle environmental assessments, or both?
- b. Consumer analysis: should this address demographics, behavior, preference, economics? Please amplify.

ANSWER: Offerors are expected to use their best judgment regarding potential analysis in the areas of "life cycle assessments" and "consumer analysis".

7) QUESTION: In the Sample Task, subtask 2, please clarify what is meant by "critical" resources".

ANSWER: Offerors are expected to use their best judgment regarding the definition of "critical" resources.

8) QUESTION: In the RFP, page 8, Section 11, under NOTES: there is a requirement for a Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Lower-tier Subcontracting Plan that states "while not applicable to task ordering agreements awarded as a result of this solicitation, it will become applicable to any task order exceeding the amount of \$550,000 placed under the anticipated task ordering agreements". Is the \$550K in aggregate for the contract or per task order?

ANSWER: The requirement will become applicable to any task order exceeding \$550,000.

9) QUESTION: Paragraph 9c at the top of page 10 states "Offerors should use the labor categories as listed to enable NREL to establish price reasonableness, but may add categories if necessary." If we choose to add categories, what supporting information do you need?

ANSWER: No supporting information was requested for any additional labor categories.

10) QUESTION: What date should we assume for contract award?

ANSWER: There is no requirement for assuming a date for contract award.

11) QUESTION: The RFP specifies a very broad set of analysis needs, but the Sample Task address a very narrow analysis requirement related to electricity power

generation. Can NREL provide one or more additional optional Sample Tasks for proposal responses?

ANSWER: The sample task is for offerors to demonstrate their approach to the type of work that will generally be required under the task ordering agreements. No additional sample tasks will be provided.

12) QUESTION: Do you want respondents to indicate which Areas/sub-areas they propose to address, or are you looking for each responded to assemble a team to address the entire list? That is, can we indicate our ability to handle some but not all the Areas/sub-areas.

ANSWER: The Work Area list provides the types and characteristics of analysis or technical assistance likely required. Offeror's capability is one of the merit criteria listed in the RFP.

13) QUESTION: Is model enhancement (or evolutionary development) to better address aspects of the task Areas an appropriate submission, or should the model be in place now? Specifically, is expansion of existing model capabilities, towards development of a new model, an appropriate response to the sample task? The 2nd bullet describing the Sample Task seems to imply that is fine, but confirmation of this would be appreciated.

ANSWER: The sample task is a sample that offerors are to use to demonstrate their approach to the type of work that will generally be required under the task ordering agreements. Offerors are expected to describe the technical approach to each subtask.

14) QUESTION: Sample Task, Subtask-1 seems to call for "comparison of alternative approaches," but then states "describe the mode..." requesting that we explain the strengths and weakness of our proposed approach. Is the Sample Task Description, Subtask-1 to include a "comparison of alternate approaches" or just focus on addressing how our methodology will address the various points mentioned?

ANSWER: The sample task is a sample that offerors are to use to demonstrate their approach to the type of work that will generally be required under the task ordering agreements.